

Published: Aug. 15, 2014, *Kokomo Tribune* [Page: A4]

http://www.kokomotribune.com/opinion/article_23077012-2ba6-11e4-b6ca-001a4bcf887a.html

Take a taste for a cause

Kokomo Tribune

As many people in this community know first-hand, when the wave of tornadoes ravaged Kokomo last November, the United Way of Howard County was one of the many groups on the ground, ready to help those in need.

The Taste of Kokomo, scheduled from 5 to 10 p.m. Saturday in Foster Park, is an excellent opportunity for the community to show its gratitude.

The event itself is free, but food tickets will be sold for \$1 a piece, with no food item priced at over \$5. All proceeds will benefit the United Way, and there are several delicious options from which to choose. There are 33 participating restaurants in this year's event, a full third of which have never participated before.

Food will be a source of entertainment at the event as well, with a gourmet burger contest scheduled for 5:30 p.m., a hot wing challenge slated for 6:30 p.m., a pizza-eating contest set for 7:30 p.m., and a taco throwdown at 8:30 p.m.

Fans of live music should take notice as “American Idol” Season 17 winner David Cook will perform at 8:30 p.m. No stranger to Kokomo, he also played at the Rhum Academy of Music last fall.

According to Lifestyle Editor Lindsey Ziliak’s story on the Taste of Kokomo, which we published in Thursday’s paper, the event usually brings in about \$30,000. Let’s make sure we, as a community, help them to once again reach, or exceed, their goal this time around.

Many in this area know from experience the impact organizations like the United Way have when disasters strike. We should make sure they have what they need while fairer weather prevails. We shouldn’t wait for trouble to start uplifting our ability to help ourselves.

As President John F. Kennedy once put it: “The time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining.”